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DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN KARELO-FINNISH SSR

Leninskoye Znamya  
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[This report presents a summary of the report by A. N. Yegorov, Secretary, Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Karelo-Finnish SSR, to the plenum of the committee, in session on 16, 17 October 1953, pursuant to the decree of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the USSR." ]

On the Present State of Agriculture in the Republic

There are now 376 kolkhozes, 31 sovkhozes, and 36 MTS and specialized stations in the republic. The indivisible funds of kolkhozes are now 1.5 times as great as in 1940.

The present state of agriculture in the republic, especially of animal husbandry and vegetable and potato growing, reflects unfulfilled agricultural potentialities.

The number of livestock in the principal categories of animal husbandry has not yet reached the levels attained in 1928 and 1941, while in other categories the 1917 figures have not yet been reached. Livestock productivity is also at a low level.

The situation with respect to the number of cows in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic is deplorable. As of 1 January, cattle herds in kolkhozes contained 37.2 cows per 100 head of cattle; by 1 September, the number had declined to 36.7 per 100. The required number of cows is 50-60 percent of the cattle herds. Sovkhozes also are lagging in the number of cows in their cattle herds.

The area devoted to potatoes and vegetables in kolkhozes of the republic is far below the prewar level and the potato and vegetable yields remain low.

During the last 4 years, the number of able-bodied workers in kolkhozes of the republic declined considerably.

One of the main reasons for lagging in agriculture is unsatisfactory utilization of machinery. Intricate modern machines are entrusted to the workers assigned to MTS only during the field-work season. Many machines stand idle during the pressing season and many machine operators fail to fulfill their output norms.

In 1952, the average tractor output per shift in the republic was 1.5 hectares as compared with the norm of 2.5 hectares. In 1952, the ratio of actual to planned output was 67 percent for combines, 76 percent for potato planters, 28 percent for potato diggers, 50 percent for tractor-drawn hay mowers, and 29 percent for ensilage cutters.

Mechanization of many operations is still at a low level in the republic. In 1952, various operations were performed by MTS machines as follows: ensilage storage, 25 percent; hay moving, 5 percent; potato planting, 29 percent; potato ridging, 23 percent; and potato digging, 12 percent. MTS do not participate at all in hay raking and stacking and in vegetable and fodder-root-crop planting and care. This is even more serious because of the labor shortage in kolkhozes.

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General introduction of machines in the agriculture of the republic is strongly retarded by unsatisfactory progress of land improvement work. Sixty percent of all the cultivated land in the republic requires drainage facilities, yet plans for draining plowland, meadows, and pastures are not fulfilled year after year.

Supervision of MTS is weak. Only three of the 36 MTS directors and only one of 34 MTS chief engineers have higher educations. In most MTS, the director, chief-engineer, and repair-shop-chief positions are filled by unqualified people who through lack of training are often unable to cope with the tasks assigned them.

Most MTS have no electric power. Electric milking has not been introduced in a single kolkhoz. Water supply is being mechanized very slowly in livestock farms.

Creation of a stable fodder base is progressing unsatisfactorily. Every year, as much as one half of the natural hay area in kolkhozes of the republic remains unmown. This is due partly to the fact that tractor-drawn and even horse-drawn mowers cannot be used on the marshy and rocky portions of the area, but primarily to the fact that kolkhozes, in connivance with MTS, mow the portions intended for tractor work by hand. In 1952, MTS were to have mown 15,000 hectares, but they fulfilled the plan only 45.5 percent.

Little is being done to grow more sown grasses, grasses for seed, and ensilage crops, particularly maize and sunflowers.

The checkrow method of planting potatoes receives little attention; 123 hectares were planted by this method in 1951, 104 hectares in 1952, and only 47 hectares in 1953. Agricultural workers explain that they have no machines, but the method can be accomplished manually with the aid of a cultivator or plow; some kolkhozes have done this on their own initiative. Potato-planting machines are now beginning to be received in the republic, especially SKG-4 four-row machines for checkrow planting. They should be used next spring.

Little lime is applied to the soil and little peat is used as a fertilizer.

The serious shortcomings in the agriculture of the republic are due above all to unsatisfactory supervision of kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and MTS by party and state organizations. Of 444 agricultural and fishing kolkhozes in the republic, only 145 have party organizations. Komsomol organizations have not been created in 243 kolkhozes.

#### On Further Development of Animal Husbandry in Kolkhozes and Sovkhoses of the Republic

Kolkhozes of the republic must remedy the shortcomings in animal husbandry by 1 October 1954 with a 15.4 percent increase in the size of livestock herds as compared with 1 September 1953, including a 25.4 percent increase in the number of cows and a 15.6 percent increase in the number of sheep. The 1954 quota for milk production has been set at 1,300 liters of milk from cows in kolkhozes and 2,700 liters from cows in sovkhoses.

In 1954-1955, kolkhozes of the republic will be required to maintain poultry farms with at least 100 poultry per 100 hectares sown to grain crops; by 1 October 1954, the number of laying hens must reach 20,000.

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The following measures will be taken to stimulate kolkhoz interest in the development of animal husbandry: a strict enforcement of the hectare principle in the obligatory deliveries of animal products to the state will be required of all kolkhozes; the practice of raising the goals of leading kolkhozes will be prohibited; and the present norms, based on the hectare principle, will function within a given rayon, where feasible.

With the development of the collectivized sector of animal husbandry, local, party, and state organizations must stop infringing on the private cattle interests of kolkhoz households.

Significant increases will be made in payments for animal products. Norms for obligatory deliveries of animal products to the state will be reduced for private kolkhoz workers, employees, and other workers.

Procurement prices for obligatory livestock and poultry deliveries are now 5.5 times as much as they were before the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU; milk and meat procurement prices for obligatory deliveries have been doubled. Raising procurement and purchase prices will result in kolkhozes gaining an additional 3.5 million rubles upon the completion of the 1953 procurement plan; private kolkhoz workers, employees, and other workers will earn an additional 2 million rubles.

According to the 1954 plan, procurement of fodder crops is to be increased considerably. It is planned to carry out much work directed toward improvement of meadows and pastures, to expand the area sown to perennial and annual grasses and fodder root crops, and to begin sowing of certain ensilage crops in kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic.

The construction of adequate livestock shelters and the greater mechanization of work connected with animal husbandry are especially critical problems. The construction of livestock shelters in the republic in 1954 must provide quarters for 8,000 cattle, 5,000 sheep, 2,000 hogs, and 6,000 poultry.

#### On Increasing Production of Potatoes and Vegetables

The main task in increasing the production of potatoes and vegetables is achieving a considerable rise in yield. In 1954, quintal-per-hectare yields in kolkhozes of the republic are to be as follows: potatoes, 130; cabbage, 200; carrots, 110; beets, 110; and cucumbers, 75. Similar yields in sovkhoses are to be as follows: potatoes, 155; cabbage, 240; carrots, 130; and beets, 130. To aid in achieving these yields, planting, interrow cultivation, and harvesting of potatoes are to be 57 percent mechanized in kolkhozes and 60 percent mechanized in sovkhoses. In kolkhozes, the checkrow method is to be employed in planting at least 2,000 hectares of potatoes and 100 hectares of vegetables; in sovkhoses, it is to be used in planting 300 hectares of potatoes and 100 hectares of vegetables.

In 1954, it is planned to concentrate vegetable planting in suburban kolkhozes near the cities of Petrozavodsk, Sortavala, and several other industrial centers. The number of hotbeds and hothouses must be increased. If they fulfill the 1954 planting plan, kolkhozes will be able to grow 3.5 times as many potatoes and 10 times as many vegetables as in 1952.

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